



**ATF**  
Bureau of  
Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

**CAT**

Communities Against Terrorism

**FBI**  
Federal Bureau  
of Investigation



**POTENTIAL  
INDICATORS**  
of Terrorist Activities related to

## Self-Radicalization and Extremist Activity on Campus

Note: There may be a legitimate and lawful reason why the indicators described below are observed. We are asking you as experts to determine when that is not the case.

*What should I consider suspicious?*

*What should I do?*

### SELF-RADICALIZATION SUSPICIOUS INDICATORS

- Isolation/ruptured relationship with family.
- Name change to one that is aligned with an ideology.
- Change in physical appearance: dress, growing/cutting hair to a length or style atypical for the individual, adding or removing tattoos, wearing symbolic jewelry, etc.
- Change in social affiliations; may disassociate from former friends/relationships in favor of people who share the new ideology.
- Adherence to extremist religious doctrine and/or political affiliation.
- Expressed perception that others threaten the individual and his or her new-found beliefs or religion.
- Vocalized concern with policies affecting their new ideology.

### SUSPICIOUS EXTREMIST ACTIVITY

- Communication with or links to extremists.
- Consumption or sharing of videos and/or propaganda from radical media sources.
- Active participation in blogs, chatrooms, or password-protected web sites known to be frequented by extremists or individuals engaged in self-radicalization.
- Pursuit of religious instruction from a person or institution promoting extremist views.
- Acknowledged or implied membership in or association with radical groups.
- Active leadership role or increased participation within the radical group; participation in secret radical group meetings; views reinforced by other radical group members.
- Weapons training; paramilitary exercises; acquisition of gear, weaponry, or explosive device components.
- Internet research on potential targets for extremist acts, acquisition of technical capabilities for committing such acts, planning, and/or logistics.
- Expressed acceptance, approval, and/or intent to conduct an attack(s).
- Use of cover terms or "code words" to mask true meaning of events or other illicit activities.
- Suspicious foreign travel and/or suspicious travel patterns: one-way tickets, claims of lost passports, etc.

### BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

- Be aware of the indicators.
- Talk to peers and students. Ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- Make notes of suspicious statements, correspondence, and other expressions of thought.
- Hold briefings with employees and remind them to remain vigilant.
- Watch for people and/or actions that are out of place.

### DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.

Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, you, as trained law enforcement professionals familiar with your college or university campus, can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism.

Remember, use of this document should not lead to a checklist-like approach to identifying and countering self-radicalization and extremist activity. This document is intended to provide a non-exhaustive list of behavioral indicators that may demonstrate potential self-radicalization or extremism.

While the presence of any one or a combination of these indicators could suggest an illicit objective, there may also be a wholly innocent and lawful explanation for the conduct or behavior, including the exercise of freedoms guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. Sound judgment and discretion should be exercised in evaluating the totality of circumstances in order to appropriately determine whether the conduct is purely First-Amendment protected, and thus not subject to further investigation, or, conversely, whether a law enforcement response or action is warranted.

To report suspicious activity, please call  
1-877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683) or by logging onto  
[HTTP://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV](http://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV).

In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT JUST BECAUSE A PERSON'S SPEECH, ACTIONS, BELIEFS, APPEARANCE, OR WAY OF LIFE IS **DIFFERENT**; IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PERSON IS **SUSPICIOUS**.



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Some of the indicators listed above are, by themselves, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In addition, there may be a wholly innocent explanation for conduct or behavior that appears suspicious in nature. For this reason, the totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.